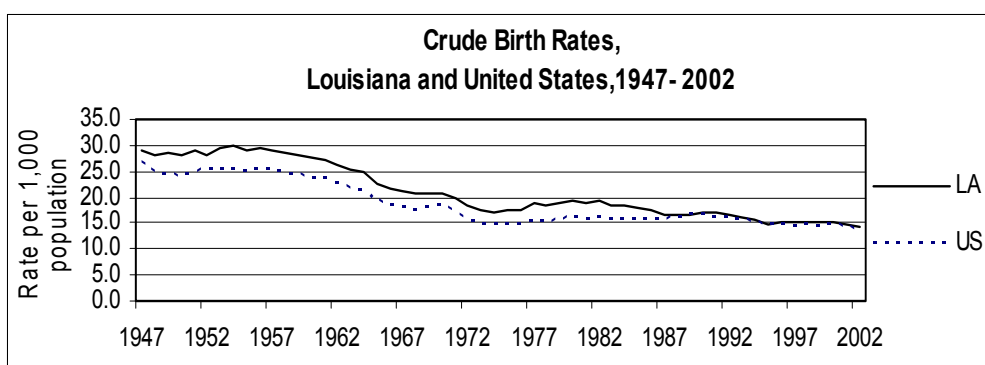




## B. BIRTHS

### Number of Live Births and Birth Rates

In the year 2002, there were 64,755 births to Louisiana residents. This marked a 0.7% decrease from the number of Louisiana births in 2001, which was higher than the 0.1% decrease observed in the United States as a whole, from 2001 to 2002. Louisiana's 2002 crude birth rate was 14.4 live births per 1,000 population. Because the crude birth rate represents the number of live births to the total population in an area, without regard to the age or sex distribution of the population, it is useful as a measure of the contribution of births to the growth of the population of the area.<sup>1</sup> Louisiana's crude birth rate also dropped from 14.6 per 1,000 population in 2001 to 14.4 per 1,000 population in 2002.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics  
National Center for Health Statistics, Births: Final Data for 2002

In the table below, Louisiana's crude birth rates are furnished to compare to the rates of its four neighboring states. Louisiana continues to rank relatively high in terms of birth rate as its 2002 ranking of 12<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation was lower than its 2001 ranking of 14<sup>th</sup>. Among neighboring states, Louisiana's birth rate is the second highest.

Crude Birth Rates		
Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 2002		
State	Birth Rate*	National Ranking
Alabama	13.1	31
Arkansas	13.8	20
Louisiana	14.5	12
Mississippi	14.5	12
Texas	17.1	2
United States	13.9	-

Source: Morgan, K.O. and Morgan, S (Editors) 2004. Health Care State Rankings 2004: Health Care in the 50 United States. (12thEd.): Morgan Quinto Press, Lawrence, KS.  
\*Rate per 1,000 population

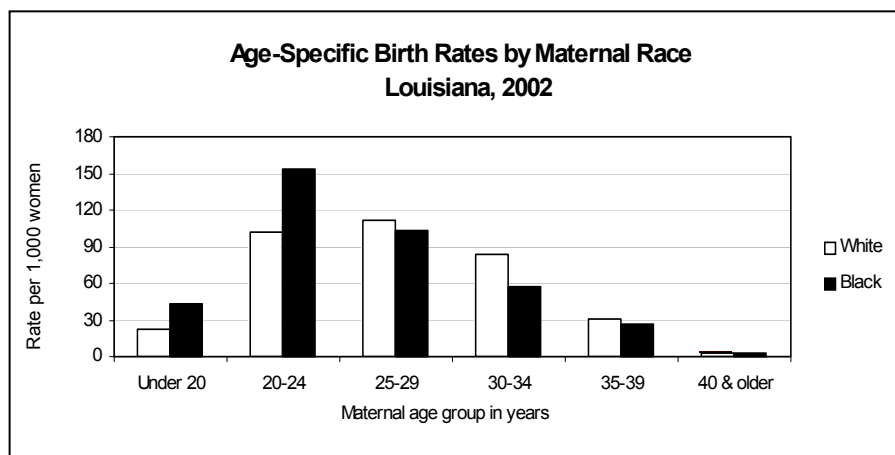
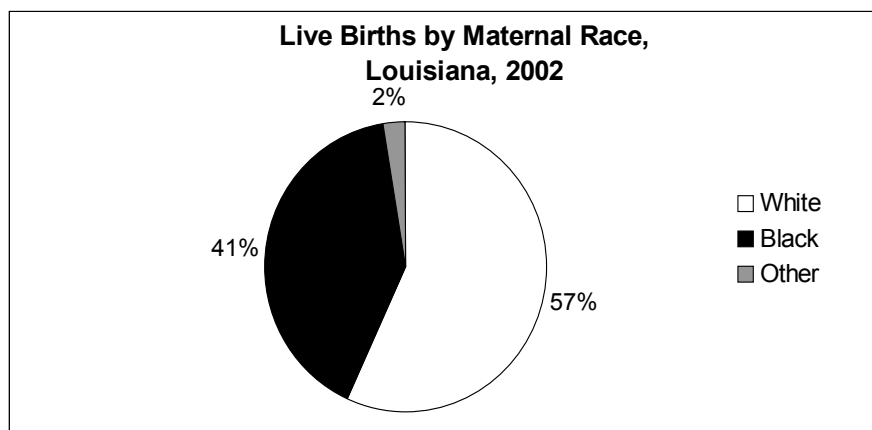
<sup>1</sup> Clarke SC and Ventura SJ. *Birth and Fertility for States: United States, 1990*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Statistics 21(52), 1994.



Black women aged 15-44 years, who constitute 36 percent of the female population of Louisiana belonging to that age group account for 41.1 percent of the state's live births in the year 2002. In comparison, 57 percent of live births that year to mothers aged 15-44 year occurred among white women, who, in turn, made up 61.6 percent of all mothers in that age group. The birth rate for whites is 12.7 and, for blacks 18.1 (per 1,000 population).

In 2002, the highest birth rates per 1,000 by race and age group were 153.9 for black mothers aged 20-24 years, and 111.7 for white mothers aged 25-29. The second highest birth rates for black mothers were 103.5 for black mothers aged 25-29 and, for white mothers 102.5 in the 20-24 age group, followed by 82.6 for black mothers aged 15-19 and 83.4 for white mothers aged 30-34.

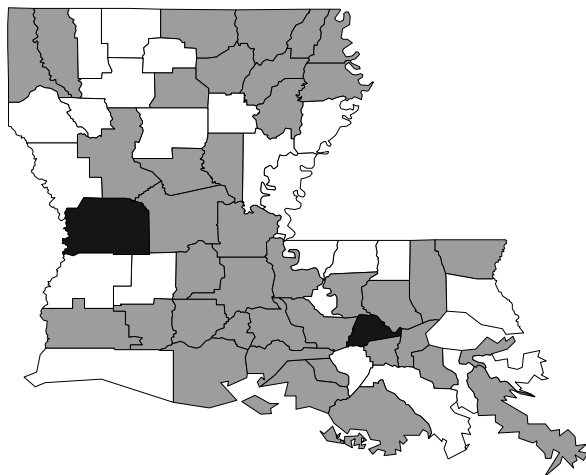
In 2002, as in the previous year, Vernon Parish had the highest birth rate in Louisiana at 19.0 births per 1,000 population, and West Feliciana Parish had the lowest birth rate at 7.6 births per 1,000 population.





## Live Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population Louisiana, 2001 & 2002

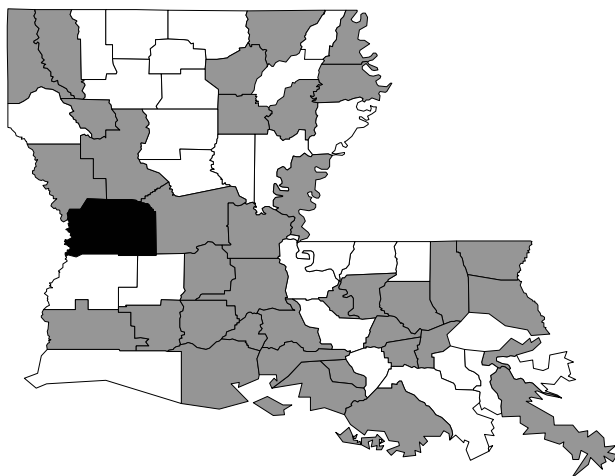
### YEAR 2001



#### Rates



### YEAR 2002





<i>Live Births By Age and Race of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 2002</i>													
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total by Occurrence</i>	<i>Total by Residence</i>	<i>Rate<sup>+</sup></i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Maternal age in years</i>								
					<i>&lt; 15</i>	<i>15-19</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40-44</i>	<i>45 &amp;+</i>	<i>Unk.</i>
STATE	65123 37053 26505 1565	64755 36605 26608 1542	14.4	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	246 **** **** ****	10013 4111 5742 160	21354 10669 10337 348	15981 9944 5592 445	11389 8040 2953 396	4751 3160 1436 155	976 608 332 36	42 28 14 0	**** **** **** 0
ACADIA	605 **** **** ****	878 **** **** ****	14.9	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** **** 0 0	140 101 39 0	339 248 91 0	223 189 34 0	121 **** **** ****	45 38 7 0	6 6 0 0	**** 0 **** 0	0 0 0 0
ALLEN	**** **** 0 0	341 255 74 12	13.4	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** 0 **** 0	67 **** **** ****	136 **** **** ****	76 **** **** ****	38 **** **** 0	20 **** **** ****	**** **** 0 0	**** 0 **** 0	0 0 0 0
ASCENSION	6 **** **** 0	1347 1019 318 10	17.0	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** 0 **** 0	139 75 64 0	337 **** **** ****	402 325 71 6	332 **** **** ****	118 **** **** ****	17 **** **** 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
ASSUMPTION	**** 0 **** 0	276 **** **** ****	11.7	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	0 0 0 0	54 **** **** ****	93 45 48 0	70 45 25 0	37 **** **** ****	21 10 11 0	**** **** 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
AVOYELLES	**** **** **** 0	626 382 228 16	15.1	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** **** **** 0	128 63 56 9	241 **** **** ****	142 **** **** ****	71 53 18 0	34 **** **** ****	7 **** **** 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
BEAUREGARD	390 297 84 9	442 357 73 12	13.4	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	0 0 0 0	72 **** **** ****	173 **** **** ****	109 **** **** ****	65 **** **** ****	15 **** **** 0	8 **** **** ****	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
BIENVILLE	0 0 0 0	199 113 86 0	12.8	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	0 0 0 0	40 17 23 0	76 38 38 0	46 29 17 0	29 22 7 0	7 **** **** 0	**** **** 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
BOSSIER	652 494 148 10	1552 1097 412 43	15.5	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** **** **** 0	196 **** **** ****	519 343 161 15	418 315 88 15	288 226 53 9	108 **** **** ****	19 13 6 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
CADDO	5975 3046 2814 115	3698 1559 2085 54	14.6	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	27 **** **** 0	613 **** **** ****	1281 455 812 14	933 455 465 13	578 335 222 21	213 **** **** ****	53 **** **** ****	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
CALCASIEU	3264 2327 885 52	2726 1858 828 40	14.8	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	7 **** **** 0	432 **** **** ****	978 653 314 11	672 490 171 11	442 338 96 8	161 106 48 7	32 **** **** ****	**** **** **** 0	0 0 0 0



<i>Live Births By Age and Race of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 2002</i>													
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total by Occurrence</i>	<i>Total by Residence</i>	<i>Rate*</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Maternal age in years</i>								
					<i>&lt; 15</i>	<i>15-19</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40-44</i>	<i>45 &amp;+</i>	<i>Unk.</i>
CALDWELL	****	159	15.0	ALL	0	17	68	43	20	10	****	0	0
	****	129		WHITE	0	12	53	38	****	****	0	0	0
	0	30		BLACK	0	5	15	5	****	****	****	0	0
	0	0		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAMERON	0	95	9.7	ALL	0	9	34	30	16	****	****	0	0
	0	88		WHITE	0	****	****	****	16	****	****	0	0
	0	7		BLACK	0	****	****	****	0	****	0	0	0
	0	0		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CATAHOULA	0	130	12.0	ALL	****	23	65	25	10	5	****	0	0
	0	89		WHITE	****	12	45	18	****	****	****	0	0
	0	41		BLACK	0	11	20	7	****	****	0	0	0
	0	0		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLAIBORNE	31	167	10.1	ALL	****	32	66	38	21	8	****	0	0
	6	****		WHITE	0	8	****	16	13	****	****	0	0
	25	****		BLACK	****	24	****	22	8	6	0	0	0
	0	****		OTHER	0	0	****	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONCORDIA	364	285	14.2	ALL	****	52	120	57	36	15	****	****	0
	****	****		WHITE	0	13	****	****	22	****	****	0	0
	****	****		BLACK	****	39	****	****	14	****	****	****	0
	****	****		OTHER	0	0	****	****	0	0	0	0	0
DESOTO	****	333	13.0	ALL	****	74	121	72	36	21	5	****	0
	0	170		WHITE	****	33	56	42	24	11	****	****	0
	****	163		BLACK	****	41	65	30	12	10	****	0	0
	0	0		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E BATON ROUGE	9789	5841	14.1	ALL	23	790	1830	1404	1162	524	101	6	****
	5512	2437		WHITE	****	167	540	643	705	321	56	****	****
	4066	3215		BLACK	****	609	1264	695	395	188	39	****	0
	211	189		OTHER	0	14	26	66	62	15	6	0	0
EAST CARROLL	****	139	15.3	ALL	****	30	61	24	15	****	****	0	0
	0	28		WHITE	0	6	12	****	****	****	****	0	0
	****	111		BLACK	****	24	49	20	11	****	****	0	0
	0	0		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E FELICIANA	****	271	12.9	ALL	****	41	100	63	41	20	5	0	0
	****	148		WHITE	****	19	45	34	34	12	****	0	0
	****	123		BLACK	0	22	55	29	7	8	****	0	0
	0	0		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EVANGELINE	606	517	14.6	ALL	0	98	179	130	81	26	****	0	0
	361	****		WHITE	0	54	116	93	****	17	****	0	0
	235	****		BLACK	0	44	63	37	****	9	****	0	0
	10	****		OTHER	0	0	0	0	****	0	0	0	0
FRANKLIN	10	318	15.0	ALL	****	69	118	78	36	10	6	0	0
	****	191		WHITE	0	23	70	57	27	****	6	0	0
	****	127		BLACK	****	46	48	21	9	****	0	0	0
	0	0		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



<i>Live Births By Age and Race of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 2002</i>													
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total by Occurrence</i>	<i>Total by Residence</i>	<i>Rate*</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Maternal age in years</i>								
					<i>&lt; 15</i>	<i>15-19</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40-44</i>	<i>45 &amp;+</i>	<i>Unk.</i>
GRANT	0	234	12.5	ALL	****	40	86	49	40	15	****	****	0
	0	198		WHITE	0	30	68	****	35	15	****	****	0
	0	36		BLACK	****	10	18	****	5	0	0	0	0
	0	0		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IBERIA	1057	1128	15.3	ALL	8	203	388	270	166	79	13	****	0
	543	648		WHITE	****	****	222	162	109	****	****	****	0
	480	446		BLACK	****	****	156	100	51	****	****	0	0
	34	34		OTHER	0	****	10	8	6	****	****	0	0
IBERVILLE	380	423	12.7	ALL	0	88	144	85	76	24	6	0	0
	****	****		WHITE	0	25	****	****	46	****	****	0	0
	****	****		BLACK	0	63	****	****	30	****	****	0	0
	****	****		OTHER	0	0	****	****	0	****	0	0	0
JACKSON	0	200	13.0	ALL	0	45	70	53	21	11	0	0	0
	0	133		WHITE	0	26	47	38	14	****	0	0	0
	0	67		BLACK	0	19	23	15	7	****	0	0	0
	0	0		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JEFFERSON	7805	6124	13.4	ALL	25	813	1731	1560	1291	584	116	****	0
	4753	3651		WHITE	8	347	901	974	913	433	71	****	0
	2708	2162		BLACK	17	445	780	485	290	109	36	0	0
	344	311		OTHER	0	21	50	101	88	42	9	0	0
JEFF DAVIS	312	458	14.7	ALL	****	72	158	118	76	25	7	****	0
	253	360		WHITE	****	****	****	****	****	20	****	0	0
	59	93		BLACK	0	****	****	****	****	5	****	****	0
	0	5		OTHER	0	****	****	****	****	0	0	0	0
LAFAYETTE	5111	2945	15.3	ALL	6	347	809	802	623	298	58	****	****
	3456	1954		WHITE	****	****	459	593	484	215	44	0	0
	1553	939		BLACK	****	****	340	191	125	75	14	****	****
	102	52		OTHER	0	****	10	18	14	8	0	0	0
LAFOURCHE	934	1241	13.7	ALL	6	187	414	313	217	84	20	0	0
	827	927		WHITE	0	115	290	250	188	****	****	0	0
	92	268		BLACK	6	65	111	46	24	****	****	0	0
	15	46		OTHER	0	7	13	17	5	****	****	0	0
LASALLE	****	196	13.7	ALL	0	37	69	57	22	10	****	0	0
	****	****		WHITE	0	****	57	****	****	10	****	0	0
	****	****		BLACK	0	****	12	****	****	0	0	0	0
	0	****		OTHER	0	****	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LINCOLN	666	556	13.0	ALL	****	89	185	143	100	30	7	0	0
	341	289		WHITE	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	0	0
	319	257		BLACK	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	0	0
	6	10		OTHER	0	****	****	****	****	****	0	0	0
LIVINGSTON	****	1484	15.5	ALL	****	183	469	446	279	89	17	0	0
	****	1405		WHITE	****	171	****	430	****	****	****	0	0
	0	71		BLACK	0	12	****	11	****	****	****	0	0
	0	8		OTHER	0	0	****	5	****	0	0	0	0



<i>Live Births By Age and Race of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 2002</i>													
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total by Occurrence</i>	<i>Total by Residence</i>	<i>Rate*</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Maternal age in years</i>								
					<i>&lt; 15</i>	<i>15-19</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40-44</i>	<i>45 &amp;+</i>	<i>Unk.</i>
MADISON	**** 0 **** 0	202 47 155 0	14.9	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** 0 **** 0	26 **** **** 0	88 19 69 0	52 18 34 0	25 **** **** 0	7 **** **** 0	**** 0 **** 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
MOREHOUSE	356 **** **** ****	455 **** **** ****	14.9	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	8 0 8 0	78 25 53 0	173 **** **** ****	104 59 45 0	66 **** **** ****	23 9 14 0	**** **** **** 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
NATCHITOCHES	613 261 347 5	585 275 302 8	14.9	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** 0 **** 0	110 **** **** ****	220 **** **** ****	138 **** **** ****	79 **** **** ****	29 **** **** ****	7 **** **** 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
ORLEANS	8290 2243 5828 219	7068 1325 5577 166	14.8	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	49 **** **** 0	1249 53 1184 12	2245 175 2055 15	1605 288 1267 50	1134 467 610 57	628 267 336 25	152 70 75 7	6 **** **** 0	0 0 0 0
OUACHITA	3636 2068 1530 38	2262 1198 1036 28	15.3	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** 0 **** ****	345 **** **** ****	784 365 409 10	585 329 250 6	386 272 107 7	129 **** **** ****	28 **** **** ****	**** **** 0 0	0 0 0 0
PLAQUEMINES	0 0 0 0	383 234 121 28	14.0	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	0 0 0 0	55 **** **** ****	138 86 46 6	91 52 33 6	67 46 13 8	23 **** **** ****	9 **** **** 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
POINTE COUPEE	6 **** **** 0	303 **** **** ****	13.5	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	0 0 0 0	56 16 40 0	122 **** **** ****	68 **** **** ****	46 29 17 0	6 **** **** 0	5 **** **** 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
RAPIDES	3093 2026 999 68	1856 1114 696 46	14.6	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	6 0 6 0	333 **** **** ****	640 344 282 14	450 301 137 12	291 219 60 12	116 **** **** ****	17 12 5 0	**** **** **** 0	0 0 0 0
RED RIVER	**** 0 **** 0	140 **** **** ****	14.6	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** 0 **** 0	29 12 17 0	47 **** **** ****	35 18 17 0	19 14 5 0	6 **** **** 0	**** **** 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
RICHLAND	5 **** **** 0	281 **** **** ****	13.7	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** 0 **** 0	42 14 28 0	126 66 60 0	63 38 25 0	36 **** **** ****	10 **** **** 0	**** 0 **** 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
SABINE	**** **** **** 0	341 240 82 19	14.6	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	0 0 0 0	51 **** **** ****	135 88 38 9	91 **** **** ****	42 **** **** ****	13 **** **** ****	8 8 0 0	**** **** 0 0	0 0 0 0



<i>Live Births By Age and Race of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 2002</i>													
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total by Occurrence</i>	<i>Total by Residence</i>	<i>Rate*</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Maternal age in years</i>								
					<i>&lt; 15</i>	<i>15-19</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40-44</i>	<i>45 &amp;+</i>	<i>Unk.</i>
ST BERNARD	**** **** 0 0	849 716 116 17	12.7	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** **** 0 ****	108 86 22 0	257 205 46 6	226 **** **** ****	174 **** **** ****	67 **** **** ****	15 **** **** ****	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
ST CHARLES	**** **** 0 0	661 427 225 9	13.7	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	0 0 0 0	90 **** **** ****	158 **** **** ****	177 **** **** 0	166 **** **** ****	64 **** **** ****	6 **** **** 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
ST HELENA	0 0 0 0	106 34 72 0	10.0	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	0 0 0 0	19 **** **** 0	37 9 28 0	27 14 13 0	13 5 8 0	8 **** **** 0	0 0 0 0	**** 0 **** 0	0 0 0 0
ST JAMES	0 0 0 0	310 **** **** ****	14.6	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	0 0 0 0	48 10 38 0	103 30 73 0	77 43 34 0	56 41 15 0	24 **** **** ****	**** **** 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
ST JOHN	347 156 184 7	693 329 350 14	16.0	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** **** **** 0	112 30 82 0	214 **** **** ****	174 **** **** ****	133 89 38 6	51 **** **** ****	7 **** **** ****	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
ST LANDRY	1409 809 585 15	1361 698 648 15	15.5	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	7 0 7 0	260 **** **** ****	497 229 261 7	288 **** **** ****	193 **** **** ****	90 **** **** ****	25 12 13 0	**** **** 0 0	0 0 0 0
ST MARTIN	5 **** **** 0	713 418 286 9	14.5	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** **** 0 0	119 **** **** ****	218 **** **** ****	188 126 57 5	126 **** **** ****	49 27 22 0	10 **** **** 0	**** **** 0 0	0 0 0 0
ST MARY	381 208 164 9	794 478 299 17	15.1	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	5 **** **** 0	162 **** **** ****	293 166 120 7	171 **** **** ****	114 **** **** ****	35 **** **** ****	13 5 8 0	**** **** 0 0	0 0 0 0
ST TAMMANY	3601 2884 671 46	2769 2343 375 51	14.1	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	5 **** **** 0	274 **** **** ****	664 512 146 6	677 590 76 11	751 667 58 26	326 **** **** ****	67 **** **** ****	5 5 0 0	0 0 0 0
TANGIPAHOA	1413 794 606 13	1544 908 623 13	15.2	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	**** **** **** 0	272 **** **** ****	596 **** **** ****	365 **** **** ****	219 **** **** ****	73 **** **** ****	15 **** **** 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
TENSAS	**** 0 **** 0	89 23 66 0	13.7	ALL WHITE BLACK OTHER	0 0 0 0	11 0 11 0	48 11 37 0	12 **** **** 0	10 **** **** 0	6 **** **** 0	**** **** **** 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0



<i>Live Births By Age and Race of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 2002</i>													
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total by Occurrence</i>	<i>Total by Residence</i>	<i>Rate*</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Maternal age in years</i>								
					<i>&lt; 15</i>	<i>15-19</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40-44</i>	<i>45 &amp;+</i>	<i>Unk.</i>
TERREBONNE	2458	1681	15.9	ALL	5	298	573	414	264	111	16	0	0
	1571	1173		WHITE	****	173	383	316	208	81	****	0	0
	706	358		BLACK	****	88	134	61	44	23	****	0	0
	181	150		OTHER	0	37	56	37	12	7	****	0	0
UNION	****	300	13.2	ALL	0	34	117	71	52	23	****	0	0
	0	212		WHITE	0	20	77	55	40	17	****	0	0
	****	88		BLACK	0	14	40	16	12	6	0	0	0
	0	0		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VERMILION	****	836	15.4	ALL	0	122	297	207	144	58	8	0	0
	****	623		WHITE	0	****	224	166	114	****	****	0	0
	****	183		BLACK	0	****	66	34	22	****	****	0	0
	0	30		OTHER	0	****	7	7	8	****	****	0	0
VERNON	832	989	19.0	ALL	****	148	411	243	144	35	5	0	****
	575	717		WHITE	****	101	294	186	105	****	****	0	****
	209	223		BLACK	****	40	99	43	32	****	****	0	0
	48	49		OTHER	0	7	18	14	7	****	****	0	0
WASHINGTON	****	615	14.1	ALL	****	118	246	147	71	27	5	0	0
	****	****		WHITE	****	68	****	97	56	19	****	0	0
	****	****		BLACK	0	50	****	50	15	8	****	0	0
	0	****		OTHER	0	0	****	0	0	0	0	0	0
WEBSTER	686	488	11.6	ALL	****	83	194	101	65	33	11	0	0
	****	****		WHITE	0	52	****	****	47	12	9	0	0
	****	****		BLACK	****	31	****	****	18	21	****	0	0
	****	****		OTHER	0	0	****	****	0	0	0	0	0
W BATON ROUGE	0	304	14.0	ALL	0	57	101	65	57	19	5	0	0
	0	180		WHITE	0	21	57	45	40	14	****	0	0
	0	124		BLACK	0	36	44	20	17	5	****	0	0
	0	0		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WEST CARROLL	0	141	11.4	ALL	****	31	49	37	13	6	****	0	0
	0	****		WHITE	****	25	37	****	****	6	****	0	0
	0	****		BLACK	0	6	12	****	****	0	****	0	0
	0	****		OTHER	0	0	0	****	0	0	0	0	0
W FELICIANA	0	115	7.6	ALL	0	21	33	35	20	5	****	0	0
	0	65		WHITE	0	7	18	22	15	****	****	0	0
	0	50		BLACK	0	14	15	13	5	****	0	0	0
	0	0		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WINN	0	192	11.5	ALL	****	32	72	46	27	14	0	0	0
	0	****		WHITE	0	15	50	****	****	****	0	0	0
	0	****		BLACK	****	17	22	****	****	****	0	0	0
	0	****		OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	****	0	0	0
OUT OF STATE**	585	953		ALL	****	93	279	254	213	79	30	****	0
	****	779		WHITE	0	63	211	****	187	****	****	****	0
	****	148		BLACK	****	25	62	****	20	****	****	0	0
	****	26		OTHER	0	5	6	****	6	****	****	0	0

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics. Denominators for population based rates are derived from the Research Division, College of Administration and Business of Louisiana Technological University (July 1, 2002).

\*Rate per 1,000 population.

\*\*Not included in state totals.

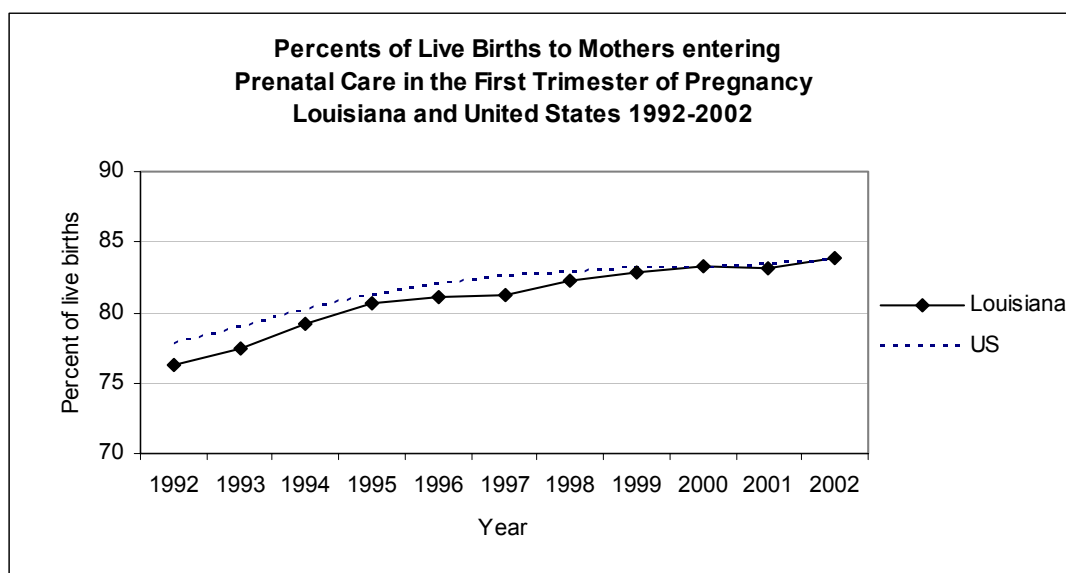
\*\*\*\*Cells suppressed to protect confidentiality.



## Prenatal Care

Prenatal care is recognized as an important means of providing medical, nutritional, and educational interventions to reduce the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes and to identify women at high risk for these outcomes. Women in prenatal care routinely receive tests for complete blood count and blood type, diabetes, syphilis, and other conditions. Newborn children are routinely tested for errors of inborn metabolism and other problems. Although these outcomes are rare, a positive test result initiates interventions that benefit both mother and child. Screening and testing undertaken as part of prenatal care have been responsible for substantial improvements in health and well-being.<sup>2</sup> Beyond the positive effect on birth outcomes, prenatal care is a vital part of women's health care, as many women (particularly adolescents, minorities, and women of low socio-economic status) start well-being checkups only as a consequence of pregnancy.<sup>3</sup>

Prenatal care is most effective when it begins during the early stages of pregnancy. At the national level, the percentage of live births to mothers entering prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy has been steadily increasing. While consistently below the national percentage, Louisiana has shown similar improvement.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics.

In the following table, percentages of live births to mothers utilizing prenatal care are furnished to allow a comparison of Louisiana to its neighboring states. In the year 2002, 83.8% of Louisiana residents who gave birth entered prenatal care in the first trimester, as compared to 83.7% of mothers in the United States. Louisiana moved from its 27<sup>th</sup> ranking in 2001 to the 28<sup>th</sup> position nationwide in 2002. Among

<sup>2</sup> Stoto et al. (1999) "Public Health Screening Programs" in: Reducing the Odds: Preventing Perinatal Transmission of HIV in the United States (pp.21-35) Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

<sup>3</sup> Fiscella, K. (1995). "Does Prenatal Care Improve Birth Outcomes? A Critical Review." *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 85, 468-79.

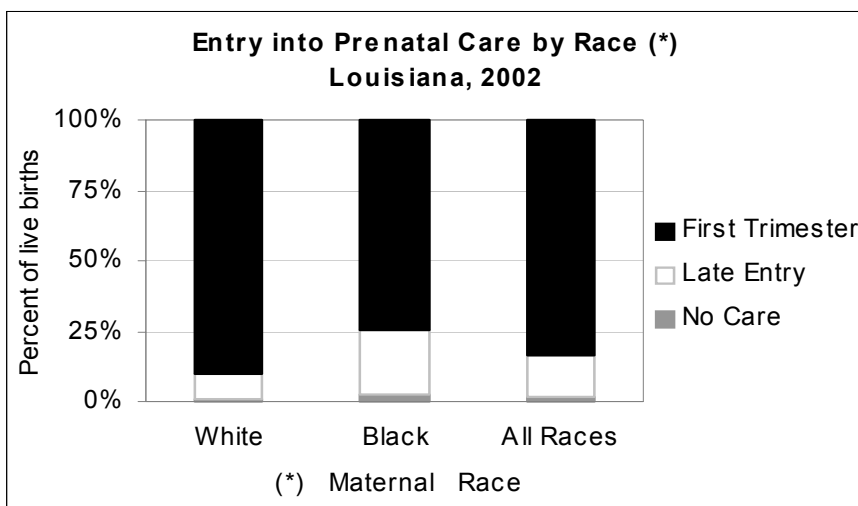


neighboring states, Louisiana jointly ranked first with Mississippi for the highest percent of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester.

<b>Percent of Live Births to Mothers Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 2002</b>		
<b>State</b>	<b>Percent of Mothers</b>	<b>National Ranking</b>
Alabama	83.3	33
Arkansas	79.6	42
Louisiana	83.8	28
Mississippi	83.8	28
Texas	80.5	39
United States	83.7	-

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Final Birth Data, 2002

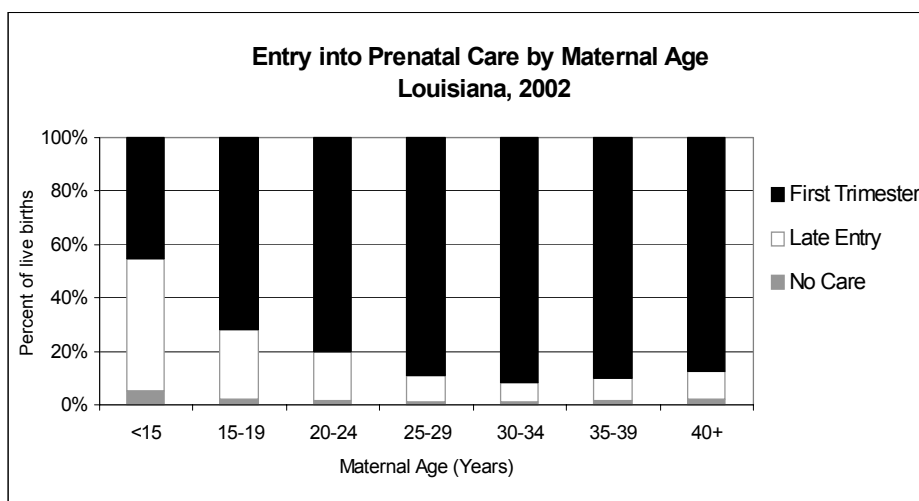
Only 74.7% of black mothers in the state had their first prenatal visit in the first trimester, compared to 90.5% of white mothers. Also, 2.7% of black mothers received no prenatal care, as compared to 0.5% of white mothers.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

Note: Late Entry refers to women who started prenatal care in the second trimester or later.

Approximately half (49.2%) of mothers under the age of 15 years started prenatal care after the first trimester of pregnancy, while 5.3% of women in this age group never received any prenatal care. However, entry into care improved with age before leveling off in the mid-thirties age group.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

Note: Late Entry, refers to women who started prenatal care in the second trimester or later

In Louisiana, adequacy of prenatal care is measured by a modified Kessner index, which defines prenatal care as adequate if the first prenatal visit occurred in the first trimester of pregnancy and if the total number of visits was appropriate to the gestational age of the baby at birth. It should be noted, however, that these measures assess neither the quality nor the content of prenatal care and, therefore, are most likely overestimates of the adequacy of care. Of the 64,755 Louisiana residents who gave birth in 2002, 78.9% received adequate care according to the modified Kessner index.

<b>Percent of Mothers Receiving Adequate* Prenatal Care by Parish Louisiana, 1998-2002</b>					
<b>Parish</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>State Total</b>	<b>76.9</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>77.96</b>	<b>77.77</b>	<b>78.91</b>
Acadia	69.7	71.6	66.81	61.50	61.20
Allen	74.9	77.3	79.19	81.63	85.50
Ascension	82.7	82.8	81.85	81.82	83.53
Assumption	80.9	83.1	76.33	77.00	70.11
Avoyelles	69.7	71.8	71.27	76.31	76.70
Beauregard	70.3	81.0	80.00	77.69	75.91
Bienville	69.0	61.9	74.07	78.02	80.00
Bossier	80.8	81.4	80.45	79.81	80.09
Caddo	72.9	72.0	71.09	71.64	72.61
Calcasieu	81.6	84.1	85.30	86.54	88.26
Caldwell	78.8	79.7	85.21	86.40	88.31
Cameron	83.3	84.0	84.75	93.14	95.70
Catahoula	68.3	68.1	72.41	56.45	72.66
Claiborne	58.0	61.7	62.13	79.38	84.15
Concordia	64.1	69.7	65.02	54.51	58.45
DeSoto	76.0	70.2	68.72	73.10	69.60
East Baton Rouge	75.3	74.7	76.91	78.29	79.68
East Carroll	58.3	52.4	61.25	66.90	71.01
East Feliciana	72.6	76.7	78.83	73.99	76.32
Evangeline	66.1	69.4	75.72	76.80	80.66



<b>Percent of Mothers Receiving Adequate<sup>+</sup> Prenatal Care by Parish Louisiana, 1998-2002</b>					
<b>Parish</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Franklin	66.5	71.9	67.73	60.87	66.67
Grant	80.0	83.9	80.31	82.95	84.85
Iberia	57.5	62.6	65.20	57.32	69.90
Iberville	73.2	72.9	65.81	70.26	71.88
Jackson	58.3	65.6	74.60	71.62	75.76
Jefferson	82.2	81.7	78.93	77.60	78.04
Jefferson Davis	60.1	61.5	63.70	68.97	72.35
Lafayette	85.1	87.8	88.71	87.15	91.36
Lafourche	84.5	83.0	84.06	83.89	84.29
LaSalle	80.1	75.8	83.15	83.84	79.49
Lincoln	48.3	54.3	61.63	69.66	68.98
Livingston	84.5	87.5	84.64	88.90	86.17
Madison	59.4	67.5	64.26	71.29	72.86
Morehouse	49.2	53.8	75.05	73.46	75.06
Natchitoches	75.5	69.8	72.20	75.39	79.41
Orleans	76.1	76.6	76.22	76.90	74.69
Ouachita	79.8	78.1	81.69	82.11	82.28
Plaquemines	77.9	82.4	82.80	78.63	81.27
Pointe Coupee	75.5	76.8	74.72	69.61	70.00
Rapides	75.5	75.8	78.21	79.42	82.78
Red River	71.3	66.9	71.94	61.42	71.01
Richland	78.8	76.8	81.25	82.31	80.94
Sabine	76.8	76.3	71.30	81.61	77.22
St. Bernard	88.4	85.0	83.14	82.10	79.88
St. Charles	83.6	76.1	77.58	75.67	76.72
St. Helena	88.6	89.4	85.60	82.54	73.08
St. James	68.9	68.9	66.03	67.33	68.65
St. John	64.6	68.7	62.96	64.63	69.90
St. Landry	66.0	67.6	70.93	68.00	69.91
St. Martin	77.6	79.1	81.35	80.60	85.59
St. Mary	79.0	78.2	79.06	68.96	69.09
St. Tammany	85.7	84.2	85.27	84.80	85.37
Tangipahoa	90.9	91.8	89.66	81.41	77.97
Tensas	50.5	63.5	60.00	49.43	55.68
Terrebonne	79.8	78.5	79.91	78.67	81.82
Union	66.2	65.5	70.64	71.52	76.61
Vermilion	83.7	85.1	87.75	82.98	88.85
Vernon	77.1	81.3	83.68	81.07	82.05
Washington	76.3	77.4	75.50	77.48	78.02
Webster	69.2	72.4	79.47	82.02	84.02
West Baton Rouge	82.6	74.8	76.85	78.99	79.87
West Carroll	57.9	58.6	73.38	79.53	77.70
West Feliciana	84.8	78.6	78.74	78.63	79.65
Winn	63.6	73.7	69.61	73.60	80.21

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

<sup>+</sup>According to modified Kessner index.



## Low Birthweight

A low birthweight infant is defined as an infant weighing less than 2500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) at birth. Preterm infants who have a lower than normal birth weight are at higher risk of experiencing neurological problems, respiratory and gastrointestinal disorders, developmental problems and slowed growth<sup>4</sup>. Low birthweight infants who survive are more likely than normal weight infants to have brain damage, lung and liver disease, subnormal growth, developmental problems, and other adverse health conditions. The effects of low birthweight follow these infants throughout life, through a greater likelihood of physical, intellectual and behavioral difficulties<sup>5</sup>. In the long run, higher proportions of low birthweight infants are enrolled in special education classes relative to their normal birthweight counterparts.<sup>6</sup>

In the year 2002, 6775 of the 64,755 infants born to Louisiana residents were low birthweight babies. This represents 10.4 percent of Louisiana's live births for the year, compared to 7.8 percent born at low birthweight in the United States as a whole. Both Louisiana and the United States have seen an increase in the percentage of infants with low birthweight in recent years.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, Louisiana had the second highest percentage of low birthweight babies in the nation in the year 2002, outranked only by Mississippi.

<b>Percent of Live Births Less Than 2500 Grams Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 2002</b>		
<b>State</b>	<b>Percent of Live Births</b>	<b>National Ranking</b>
Alabama	9.9	4
Arkansas	8.6	12
Louisiana	10.4	2
Mississippi	11.2	1
Texas	7.7	29
United States	7.8	-

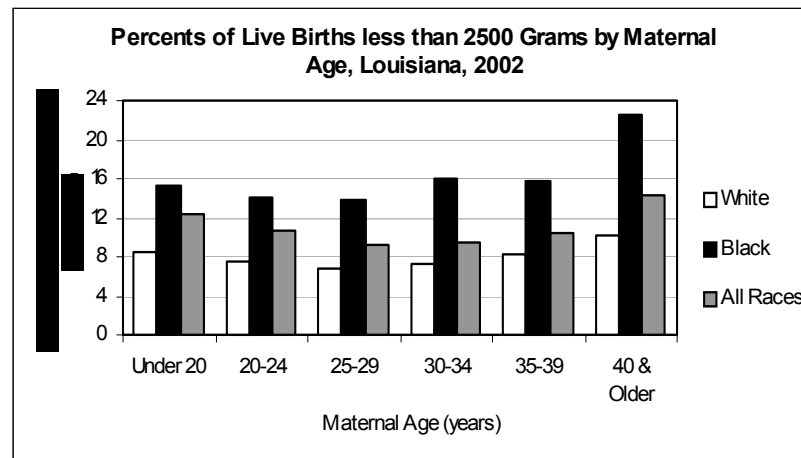
Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Final Birth Data, 2002

In Louisiana, black women gave birth to infants of low birthweight about twice as frequently as white women did, at 14.7 percent compared to 7.5 percent of live births, respectively. This discrepancy held true for almost all age groups, excluding women under 15 years of age where the racial disparity was almost threefold. Black mothers under 15 were more likely to have low birthweight babies than white mothers under 15. Examination of births by age group found that mothers over the age of 40 years had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies (14.2 percent of live births), followed by mothers under age 20 (12.5 percent).

<sup>4</sup> High- Risk Infants. Journal of the American Medical Association. 284 (16) 2142 October 25<sup>th</sup> 2000.

<sup>5</sup> Waldman HB. Perlman SP., Low Birthweight babies grow older, but there could be many problems. Journal of Dentistry for Children. 68 (5-6): 302, 2001 Sep- Dec.

<sup>6</sup> Hack M, Klein NK and Taylor HG. Long-term developmental outcomes of low birthweight infants. The Future of Children, Low Birthweight 1995; 5:19-34.



Infants weighing less than 1500 grams (3 pounds, 5 ounces) at birth are considered to be very low birthweight and are at much greater risk of mortality and long-term disability. The risk of early death for very low birthweight infants is about 65 times that of infants who weigh at least 1500 grams.<sup>7</sup> In the year 2002, 2% of infants born to Louisiana residents weighed less than 1500 grams, as compared to 1.5% of infants born to United States residents. As with infants weighing less than 2500 grams, there were demographic differences in the mothers giving birth to very low birthweight infants. Black mothers gave birth to very low birthweight infants three times as frequently as white mothers did, at 3.3% compared to 1.1% of live births, respectively. Infants born to the youngest and the oldest mothers were more likely to be very low birthweight.

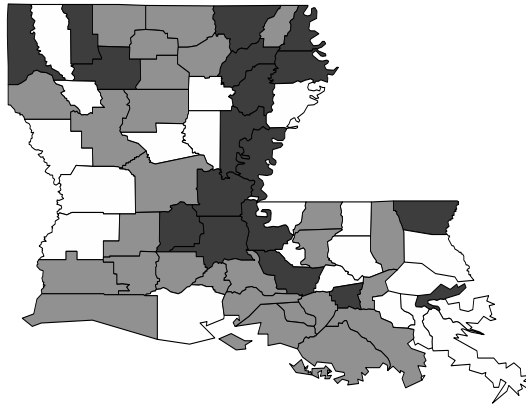
In the year 2002, Tensas Parish had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies in Louisiana at 19.1% of live births, while Cameron Parish had the lowest at 5.3% of live births. The map on the following page shows the percent of live births that were low birthweight babies in each parish.

<sup>7</sup> Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Curtin SC, Mathews TJ. "Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1995." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*; vol. 45 no 11, suppl. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1997.

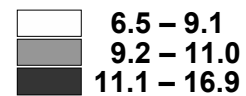


## Percent of Live Births less than 2500 grams Five Year Averages

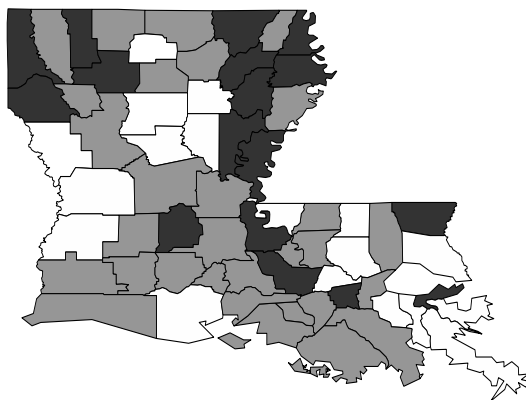
**YEARS 1997-2001**



**Percent**



**YEARS 1998-2002**

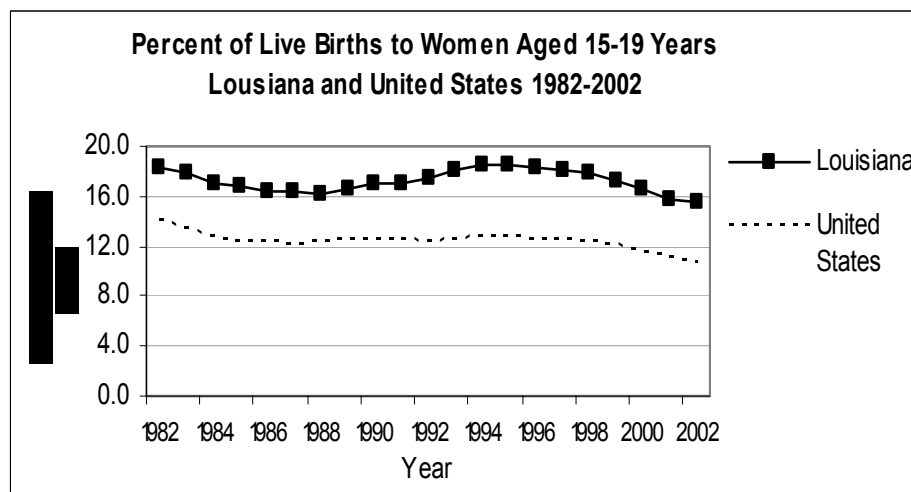




## Teen Births

Despite an overall decrease in teen birth rates over the last two decades, teenage pregnancy continues to be a problem for the nation. Teen mothers are less likely to receive adequate prenatal care and are more likely to give birth to low birthweight infants.<sup>8</sup> Their infants are more likely to be hospitalized and grow to have childhood health problems. National statistics report that most births to teens (78.9 percent) occur outside marriage<sup>9</sup> and 25% of teenage mothers go on to have additional children within the next two years.<sup>10</sup> These factors, combined with the fact that teenage mothers are less likely to finish high school, contribute to the high proportion of women living in poverty who first gave birth during adolescence. During state fiscal year of 1997-1998, Louisiana spent over \$540 million on assistance programs such as the Family Independent Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP), Food Stamps, Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program, Foster Care and Medicaid to support adolescent pregnancy in Louisiana.<sup>11</sup> In contrast, the state spent over \$10.3 million that same fiscal year on programs designed to prevent teenage pregnancy.<sup>12</sup>

As illustrated in the graph below, the percentage of live births to teen mothers aged 15-19 years has decreased over the last twenty years nationwide; this percentage however is higher in Louisiana than in United States overall. While, both nationwide and in Louisiana, an increase in teenage births was observed in the mid-1990's, the proportion of teenage births as a total of all births has been on a downward trend for the last six years.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics  
National Center for Health Statistics, NVSS Reports

<sup>8</sup> Lewis CT, Mathews TJ, Heuser RL. *Prenatal Care in the United States, 1980-94*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Statistics 21(54). 1996.

<sup>9</sup> Ventura SJ, Curtin SC, Martin JA, Mathews TJ. "Variations in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991-98." *National Vital Statistics Reports*, vol. 48 no 6. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2000.

<sup>10</sup> The Alan Guttmacher Institute. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. 1994.

<sup>11</sup> Louisiana Task Force on Teen Pregnancy. *Consequences of Adolescent Pregnancy*, p. 27, March 1999

<sup>12</sup> Louisiana Task Force on Teen Pregnancy. *Consequences of Adolescent Pregnancy*, p. 28, March 1999

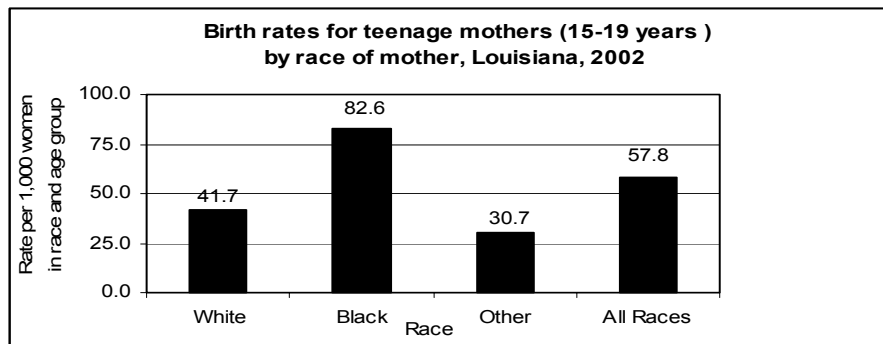


The following table shows teen birth rates for women aged 15-19 years in Louisiana and neighboring states. Louisiana has consistently ranked among the top ten states in the Union in terms of rate of live births to teens. In the year 2002, Louisiana had the 6<sup>th</sup> highest rate of live births to teens aged 15-19 in the nation, ranking lower than Mississippi, Texas, and Arkansas, which were all in the top five.

<b>Rate of Live Births to Teenage Mothers aged 15-19 Years Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 2002</b>		
<b>State</b>	<b>Rate of Live Births</b>	<b>National Ranking</b>
Alabama	54.5	9
Arkansas	59.9	5
Louisiana	58.1	6
Mississippi	64.7	1
Texas	64.4	2
United States	43.0	-

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Births: Final Data for 2002

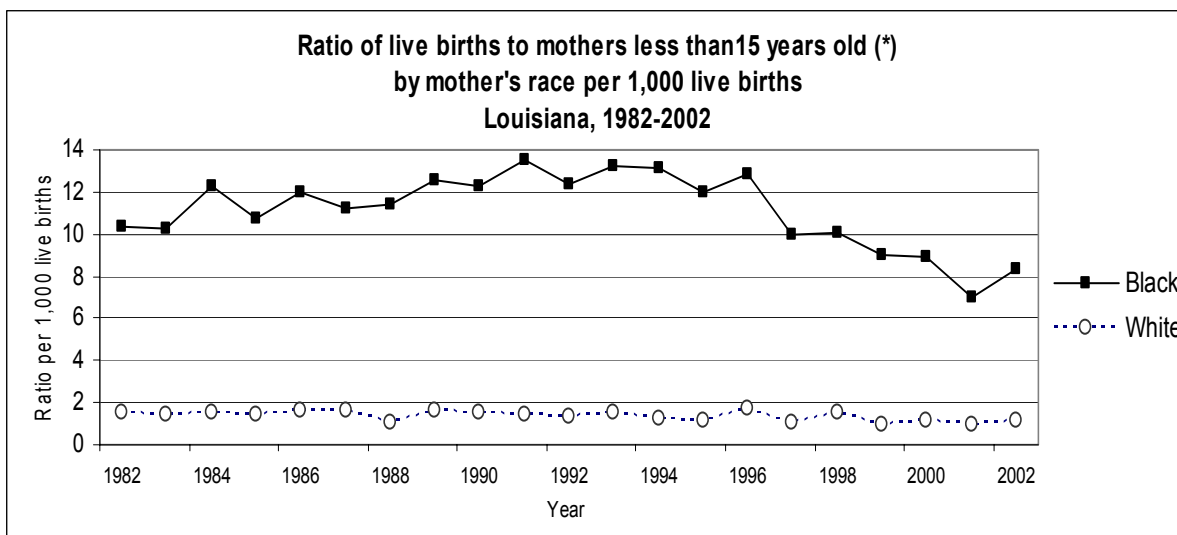
To make meaningful comparisons of births among teens in different race groups, teen birth rates have been calculated by relating the number of teen births in each race group to the total number of teen women in the same age-race group. In Louisiana, the birth rate per 1,000 for black teenagers aged 15-19 in 2002 (82.6) was nearly twice that of white teenagers (41.7) aged 15-19 years, as illustrated in the following graph.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

For women less than 20 years of age, the birth rate was 43.6 births per 1,000 black women compared to 21.6 births per 1,000 white women in Louisiana for 2002.

While this chapter has focused on births to teenage mothers aged 15- 19 years, it is important to note that live births do occur among women aged less than 15. There is a great racial disparity in the proportion of women giving birth to live infants when younger than 15 years of age. Black women are historically more likely than white women to conceive and deliver an infant before turning 15 years old as illustrated in the following graph.

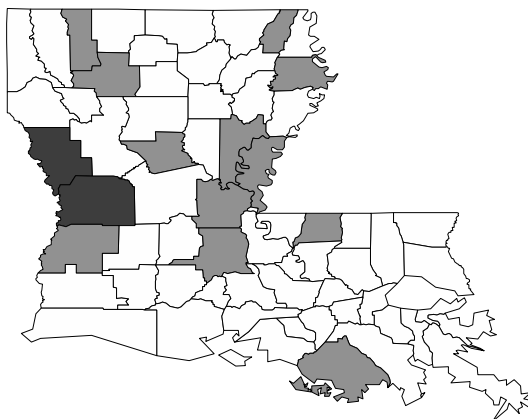


Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

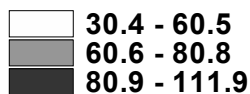
(\*) Mother's aged less than 8 are not included in the count.

**Teen birth rate per 1,000 women 15-19 years of age  
Louisiana, 2001-2002**

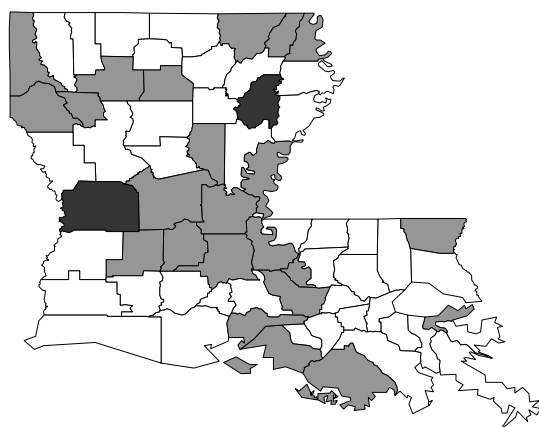
**YEAR 2001**



**Rate**



**YEAR 2002**





<i><b>Births by Parish of Residence, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 2002</b></i>					
<i><b>Parish</b></i>	<i><b>Total Births</b></i>	<i><b>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care+</b></i>	<i><b>Percent Low Weight Births (&lt;5lbs, 8oz) 1998 - 2002</b></i>	<i><b>% Births to Mothers 15-19 Years Old</b></i>	<i><b>% Births to Mothers Under 20 Years Old</b></i>
Louisiana	64755	78.91	10.34	15.46	15.84
White	36605	86.28	7.35	11.23	11.35
Black	26608	68.71	14.58	21.58	22.34
Other	1542	79.75	8.11	10.38	10.51
Acadia	878	61.20	10.77	15.95	16.29
White	****	66.52	8.57	14.64	15.07
Black	****	40.98	17.84	20.97	20.97
Other	****	100.00	9.09	0.0	0.0
Allen	341	85.50	9.72	19.65	19.94
White	255	88.14	7.67	18.43	18.43
Black	74	79.45	16.85	22.97	24.32
Other	12	66.67	12.20	0.0	0.0
Ascension	1347	83.53	8.46	10.32	10.47
White	1019	90.41	6.97	7.36	7.36
Black	318	61.34	13.14	20.13	20.75
Other	10	90.00	3.85	0.00	0.00
Assumption	276	70.11	11.28	19.57	19.57
White	****	73.91	7.34	10.79	10.79
Black	****	65.65	16.37	28.15	28.15
Other	****	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
Avoyelles	626	76.70	11.14	20.45	20.93
White	382	85.00	7.32	16.49	16.75
Black	228	62.16	17.96	24.56	25.44
Other	16	81.25	7.41	56.25	56.25
Beauregard	442	75.91	7.59	16.29	16.29
White	357	80.90	6.79	15.97	15.97
Black	73	52.05	11.21	17.81	17.81
Other	12	72.73	15.15	0.0	0.0
Bienville	199	80.00	11.84	20.10	20.10
White	113	85.45	9.37	15.04	15.04
Black	86	72.94	14.80	26.74	26.74
Other	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
Bossier	1552	80.09	9.27	12.63	12.89
White	1097	86.46	7.43	9.75	9.94
Black	412	63.30	14.55	21.36	21.84
Other	43	79.07	5.36	0.0	0.0
Caddo	3698	72.61	11.75	16.58	17.31
White	1559	88.35	7.71	10.71	10.78
Black	2085	60.72	14.98	21.25	22.49
Other	54	79.25	6.97	0.0	0.0
Calcasieu	2726	88.26	9.79	15.85	16.10
White	1858	91.57	7.75	13.40	13.56
Black	828	80.44	14.61	21.86	22.34
Other	40	95.00	5.37	0.0	0.0



<i><b>Births by Parish of Residence, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 2002</b></i>					
<i><b>Parish</b></i>	<i><b>Total Births</b></i>	<i><b>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care+</b></i>	<i><b>Percent Low Weight Births (&lt;5lbs, 8oz) 1998 - 2002</b></i>	<i><b>% Births to Mothers 15-19 Years Old</b></i>	<i><b>% Births to Mothers Under 20 Years Old</b></i>
Caldwell	159	88.31	10.34	10.69	10.69
White	129	89.52	7.35	9.30	9.30
Black	30	83.33	14.58	16.67	16.67
Other	0	0.00	8.11	0.0	0.0
Cameron	95	95.70	10.77	9.47	9.47
White	88	97.67	8.57	9.09	9.09
Black	7	71.43	17.84	0.0	0.0
Other	0	0.00	9.09	0.0	0.0
Catahoula	130	72.66	9.72	17.69	18.46
White	89	85.06	7.67	13.48	14.61
Black	41	46.34	16.85	26.83	26.83
Other	0	0.00	12.20	0.0	0.0
Claiborne	167	84.15	8.46	19.16	19.76
White	****	91.04	6.97	11.59	11.59
Black	****	80.21	13.14	24.74	25.77
Other	****	0.00	3.85	0.0	0.0
Concordia	285	58.45	16.55	18.25	18.60
White	****	71.53	14.80	9.49	9.49
Black	****	46.21	18.23	26.71	27.40
Other	****	50.00	8.33	0.0	0.0
DeSoto	333	69.60	11.72	22.22	23.12
White	170	77.06	8.55	19.41	20.00
Black	163	61.64	14.92	25.15	26.38
Other	0	0.00	20.00	0.0	0.0
E. Baton Rouge	5841	79.68	10.80	13.53	13.92
White	2437	90.88	6.75	6.85	6.89
Black	3215	71.14	14.36	18.94	19.63
Other	189	81.28	7.68	7.41	7.41
East Carroll	139	71.01	12.14	21.58	24.46
White	28	100.00	7.33	21.43	21.43
Black	111	63.64	13.30	21.62	25.23
Other	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
E. Feliciana	271	76.32	9.60	15.13	15.50
White	148	87.67	7.65	12.84	13.51
Black	123	62.50	11.61	17.89	17.89
Other	0	0.00	20.00	0.0	0.0
Evangeline	517	80.66	13.78	18.96	18.96
White	****	85.76	10.45	15.56	15.56
Black	****	70.06	19.98	26.04	26.04
Other	****	100.00	8.33	0.0	0.0
Franklin	318	66.67	11.59	21.70	22.01
White	191	78.72	9.23	12.04	12.04
Black	127	48.82	14.60	36.22	37.01
Other	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0



<i><b>Births by Parish of Residence, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 2002</b></i>					
<i><b>Parish</b></i>	<i><b>Total Births</b></i>	<i><b>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care+</b></i>	<i><b>Percent Low Weight Births (&lt;5lbs, 8oz) 1998 - 2002</b></i>	<i><b>% Births to Mothers 15-19 Years Old</b></i>	<i><b>% Births to Mothers Under 20 Years Old</b></i>
Grant	234	84.85	9.01	17.09	17.52
White	198	86.15	8.63	15.15	15.15
Black	36	77.78	12.20	27.78	30.56
Other	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
Iberia	1128	69.90	9.48	18.00	18.71
White	648	81.44	6.66	14.20	14.51
Black	446	54.57	13.67	23.99	25.34
Other	34	50.00	7.56	0.0	0.0
Iberville	423	71.88	11.94	20.80	20.80
White	****	92.40	8.90	14.29	14.29
Black	****	57.44	14.28	25.71	25.71
Other	****	66.67	0.00	0.0	0.0
Jackson	200	75.76	10.07	22.50	22.50
White	133	83.97	7.85	19.55	19.55
Black	67	59.70	14.71	28.36	28.36
Other	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
Jefferson	6124	78.04	9.15	13.28	13.68
White	3651	82.91	6.84	9.50	9.72
Black	2162	70.02	13.50	20.58	21.37
Other	311	76.80	8.31	6.75	6.75
Jefferson Davis	458	72.35	10.23	15.72	15.94
White	360	76.90	8.66	14.44	14.72
Black	93	54.35	16.06	20.43	20.43
Other	5	80.00	8.33	0.0	0.0
Lafayette	2945	91.36	9.53	11.78	11.99
White	1954	94.77	6.52	8.09	8.14
Black	939	84.18	16.11	19.91	20.45
Other	52	92.31	6.32	0.0	0.0
Lafourche	1241	84.29	9.86	15.07	15.55
White	927	84.98	8.07	12.41	12.41
Black	268	80.30	16.31	24.25	26.49
Other	46	93.48	9.39	15.22	15.22
LaSalle	196	79.49	7.84	18.88	18.88
White	****	85.63	6.35	15.48	15.48
Black	****	40.00	18.64	32.00	32.00
Other	****	66.67	0.00	0.0	0.0
Lincoln	556	68.98	9.04	16.01	16.37
White	289	82.39	5.74	12.46	12.46
Black	257	53.15	12.62	20.23	21.01
Other	10	90.00	2.38	0.0	0.0
Livingston	1484	86.17	7.71	12.33	12.40
White	1405	86.91	7.23	12.17	12.24
Black	71	71.83	15.70	16.90	16.90
Other	8	85.71	6.25	0.00	0.00



<i><b>Births by Parish of Residence, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 2002</b></i>					
<i><b>Parish</b></i>	<i><b>Total Births</b></i>	<i><b>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care+</b></i>	<i><b>Percent Low Weight Births (&lt;5lbs, 8oz) 1998 - 2002</b></i>	<i><b>% Births to Mothers 15-19 Years Old</b></i>	<i><b>% Births to Mothers Under 20 Years Old</b></i>
Madison	202	72.86	14.12	12.87	13.86
White	47	86.96	11.46	0.0	0.0
Black	155	68.63	15.04	14.84	16.13
Other	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
Morehouse	455	75.06	11.77	17.14	18.90
White	201	87.44	8.87	12.44	12.44
Black	251	64.78	14.00	21.12	24.30
Other	****	100.00	25.00	0.0	0.0
Natchitoches	585	79.41	10.47	18.80	19.15
White	275	91.14	7.64	13.09	13.09
Black	302	68.23	12.90	23.84	24.50
Other	8	100.00	22.22	0.0	0.0
Orleans	7068	74.69	13.11	17.67	18.36
White	1325	89.17	7.29	4.00	4.08
Black	5577	71.19	14.60	21.23	22.09
Other	166	78.40	7.53	7.23	7.23
Ouachita	2262	82.28	10.30	15.25	15.43
White	1198	89.65	6.63	10.43	10.43
Black	1036	73.65	14.75	21.14	21.43
Other	28	85.71	9.00	0.0	0.0
Plaquemines	383	81.27	8.54	14.36	14.36
White	234	85.71	7.41	12.39	12.39
Black	121	70.00	11.33	18.18	18.18
Other	28	92.86	7.27	0.0	0.0
Pointe Coupee	303	70.00	11.90	18.48	18.48
White	****	85.21	7.21	11.19	11.19
Black	****	57.05	16.91	25.32	25.32
Other	****	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
Rapides	1856	82.78	10.65	17.94	18.27
White	1114	89.35	7.36	14.00	14.00
Black	696	73.77	15.68	24.86	25.72
Other	46	60.87	8.23	0.0	0.0
Red River	140	71.01	9.93	20.71	22.86
White	****	91.18	8.33	17.39	17.39
Black	****	50.72	11.46	24.29	28.57
Other	****	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
Richland	281	80.94	11.43	14.95	16.01
White	****	93.62	7.62	9.72	9.72
Black	****	67.91	15.40	20.90	23.13
Other	****	66.67	22.22	0.0	0.0
Sabine	341	77.22	8.91	14.96	14.96
White	240	79.17	6.91	13.33	13.33
Black	82	69.62	14.76	19.51	19.51
Other	19	84.21	10.78	0.0	0.0



<i><b>Births by Parish of Residence, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 2002</b></i>					
<i><b>Parish</b></i>	<i><b>Total Births</b></i>	<i><b>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care+</b></i>	<i><b>Percent Low Weight Births (&lt;5lbs, 8oz) 1998 - 2002</b></i>	<i><b>% Births to Mothers 15-19 Years Old</b></i>	<i><b>% Births to Mothers Under 20 Years Old</b></i>
St. Bernard	849	79.88	8.75	12.72	12.96
White	716	80.95	7.95	12.01	12.15
Black	116	72.17	15.24	18.97	18.97
Other	17	88.24	7.41	0.00	5.88
St. Charles	661	76.72	8.73	13.62	13.62
White	427	85.14	6.92	9.84	9.84
Black	225	60.91	12.31	20.44	20.44
Other	9	66.67	12.82	0.0	0.0
St. Helena	106	73.08	8.58	17.92	17.92
White	34	91.18	4.64	0.0	0.0
Black	72	64.29	11.38	22.22	22.22
Other	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
St. James	310	68.65	12.29	15.48	15.48
White	****	83.97	8.45	7.35	7.35
Black	****	56.73	14.64	21.97	21.97
Other	****	100.00	20.00	0.0	0.0
St. John	693	69.90	10.24	16.16	16.45
White	329	81.48	8.27	9.12	9.42
Black	350	59.18	12.27	23.43	23.71
Other	14	64.29	1.85	0.00	0.00
St. Landry	1361	69.91	10.87	19.10	19.62
White	698	78.20	6.99	15.47	15.47
Black	648	61.14	14.79	23.15	24.23
Other	15	60.00	6.67	0.0	0.0
St. Martin	713	85.59	10.57	16.69	16.83
White	418	92.55	8.58	12.92	13.16
Black	286	75.00	13.65	22.38	22.38
Other	9	88.89	4.08	0.0	0.0
St. Mary	794	69.09	10.19	20.40	21.03
White	478	76.43	7.61	16.53	17.15
Black	299	57.97	14.76	26.42	27.09
Other	17	58.82	6.08	0.0	0.0
St. Tammany	2769	85.37	7.64	9.90	10.08
White	2343	87.62	6.72	8.83	8.92
Black	375	71.39	12.93	17.07	17.87
Other	51	84.31	9.50	0.0	0.0
Tangipahoa	1544	77.97	10.13	17.62	17.88
White	908	84.62	6.50	11.67	11.89
Black	623	68.13	15.38	26.32	26.65
Other	13	84.62	15.15	0.0	0.0
Tensas	89	55.68	10.84	12.36	12.36
White	23	78.26	8.97	0.00	0.00
Black	66	47.69	11.65	16.67	16.67
Other	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0



<i><b>Births by Parish of Residence, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 2002</b></i>					
<i><b>Parish</b></i>	<i><b>Total Births</b></i>	<i><b>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care+</b></i>	<i><b>Percent Low Weight Births (&lt;5lbs, 8oz) 1998 - 2002</b></i>	<i><b>% Births to Mothers 15-19 Years Old</b></i>	<i><b>% Births to Mothers Under 20 Years Old</b></i>
Terrebonne	1681	81.82	10.40	17.73	18.02
White	1173	82.59	8.37	14.75	14.92
Black	358	78.69	17.22	24.58	25.42
Other	150	83.22	9.96	24.67	24.67
Union	300	76.61	9.99	11.33	11.33
White	212	82.86	8.18	9.43	9.43
Black	88	61.18	13.21	15.91	15.91
Other	0	0.00	20.00	0.0	0.0
Vermilion	836	88.85	8.90	14.59	14.59
White	623	89.12	7.18	11.56	11.56
Black	183	88.33	15.86	26.23	26.23
Other	30	86.21	5.30	0.0	0.0
Vernon	989	82.05	7.07	14.96	15.17
White	717	82.32	6.08	14.09	14.23
Black	223	80.37	10.37	17.94	18.39
Other	49	85.71	7.82	14.29	14.29
Washington	615	78.02	11.29	19.19	19.35
White	****	87.53	8.47	17.89	18.16
Black	****	62.39	15.56	21.46	21.46
Other	****	50.00	11.11	0.0	0.0
Webster	488	84.02	11.89	17.01	17.21
White	****	90.51	9.07	17.28	17.28
Black	****	75.00	15.97	16.85	17.39
Other	****	0.00	36.36	0.0	0.0
W. Baton Rouge	304	79.87	9.37	18.75	18.75
White	180	86.86	6.86	11.67	11.67
Black	124	69.92	13.18	29.03	29.03
Other	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
West Carroll	141	77.70	9.90	21.99	22.70
White	****	79.44	7.88	23.15	24.07
Black	****	70.97	17.37	18.75	18.75
Other	****	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
W. Feliciana	115	79.65	8.35	18.26	18.26
White	65	84.38	5.33	10.77	10.77
Black	50	73.47	11.78	28.00	28.00
Other	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
Winn	192	80.21	9.10	16.67	17.19
White	****	86.47	5.82	11.03	11.03
Black	****	64.15	14.80	30.91	32.73
Other	****	100.00	40.00	0.0	0.0

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics.

+ According to modified Kessner index.

\*\*\*\* Cells suppressed to protect confidentiality.